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FM AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4182
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEATRS/TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHXS/ASEAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 000128

SIPDIS

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MTS
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR FOR WEISEL, BAE AND EHLERS
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO USPTO FOR FOWLER
SINGAPORE FOR FCS, DHS AND FAS
KUALA LUMPUR FOR FAS
BANGKOK FOR FCS:NESS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [KIPR](#) [BX](#)
SUBJECT: BRUNEI SPECIAL 301 REPLY - MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER ON IP
PROTECTION

Ref: A) Wallace-Friedman e-mail of 4/25/08
B) State 45407
C) Bandar Seri Begawan 111 and previous

1. (SBU) Per ref A instructions, DCM informed Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MoFAT) officials on April 25 of the decision not/not to place Brunei on the Special 301 Watch List. DCM followed up, delivering the full demarche to MoFAT Permanent Secretary for Trade Dato Lim Jock Hoi on April 28. Note: ref B instructions received April 30.

2. (SBU) Dato Lim responded that the Government of Brunei (GoB) wants to work together with the U.S. government and intellectual property rights holders to improve IP enforcement in Brunei. He welcomed the proposed USPTO-GIPA co-sponsored enforcement workshop as an important step and repeated the GoB request to have rights holders provide points of contact to MoFAT to facilitate cooperative enforcement efforts (ref C). Lim said he would work with the Customs Department to help secure GoB (Ministry of Finance) co-sponsorship of this workshop on June 3-4, as proposed.

3. (SBU) Lim added that he would be working to establish a standing interagency IPR working group to maintain focus on the issue of IP protection and to follow up on issues of concern raised in our demarche and in our Trade and Investment Council (TICO) meetings including the need for a review of existing IP legislation. Reiterating his views on building public support for stronger IP protections (ref B), Dato Lim stated that an approach that focuses on health and safety concerns about pirated goods would have the biggest impact on both the law enforcement community and the general public.

4. (SBU) Lim also stated that Brunei was considering joining the Convention on Biodiversity on the rationale that Brunei's pristine tropical rainforest jungle could be a source of future IP products from Brunei. Joining the Convention would help ensure protection of the Heart of Borneo areas in Brunei as well as being a step towards building a stronger case for the protection of IP being in Brunei's national interest.

SKODON